

VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
Valley Forge National Historical Park
Valley Forge Vicinity
Montgomery & Chester Counties
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6186

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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- Location: Valley Forge National Historical Park, Montgomery and Chester counties, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
- Present Owner: National Park Service, Department of the Interior
- Present Use: Valley Forge was designated a National Historical Park to preserve, commemorate and interpret the Revolutionary War era winter encampment of General George Washington and the Continental Army.
- Significance: Valley Forge National Historical Park is a landmark in American history as the site of the Revolutionary War era winter encampment of General George Washington and the Continental Army. From December of 1777 through mid-June of 1778, the army trained while waiting out the harsh winter. The soldiers-- undernourished, and ill-clad and housed-- were subjected to diseases that many did not survive. The Continental Army endured, however, making Valley Forge a symbol of the tenacity of the American spirit in the fight for independence.
- The site of the encampment--laid out by French engineer and Brigadier General Louis L. Duportail-- included remnants of features such as redoubts, forts, hutments, and the farmsteads used as quarters for the commanding officers. Among the most significant encampment era sites is the Isaac Potts House, used by General George Washington as his headquarters. As a park, the current site of the encampment includes an interpretive overlay of roadways and paths, monuments, waysides and other tourist attractions. While the park was created to interpret a specific point in time, the following is designed to examine the evolution of this important commemorative landscape over the course of its over 200 year history.
- Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS

VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,
THE EVOLUTION OF THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Introduction

During the winter of 1777-78, General George Washington and the Continental Army established an encampment at Valley Forge, approximately twenty miles west of the city of Philadelphia then occupied by the British. With the British situated within the well supplied city, the success of an attack by Washington's weary army was unlikely. The Continental Army would wait out the winter at Valley Forge where the elevated landscape afforded views from all likely approaches, thus rendering it a readily defensible site should an attack occur. The troops arrived December 19, 1777, in desperate need of shelter, food, and clothing. According to tradition, upon arrival at Valley Forge Washington insisted on remaining with the troops, camping in the open until log huts could be erected. Eventually Washington took shelter in the house owned by Isaac Potts--who operated a grist and saw mill along Valley Creek--in what was later known as "The Village of Valley Forge."

General Washington occupied the Potts House for six months, among the longest time spent at any of his Revolutionary War headquarters. From this house Washington directed the efforts of the Continental Army, conferring with his generals, petitioning Congress and planning his campaign. Much of Washington's letter writing was in the attempt to acquire needed supplies and to reorganize the army; during the harsh winter months that followed, approximately 3,000 of the 12,000 to 20,000 men encamped there would die from poor conditions and sickness. Those who survived the cruel winter and the disciplined training at Valley Forge emerged to lead the Americans to victory in the Revolutionary War. It was this disciplined determination, exhibited in the face of adversity, that made Valley Forge a symbol of the tenacity of the American spirit in the fight for independence.

In 1893 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established Valley Forge Park to commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army, and the hardships endured there during the American Revolution. Valley Forge was considered to be among the few such revolutionary war era encampments substantially intact. Tasked with restoration and maintenance was the Valley Forge Park Commission, also formed in 1893. Although the original 250-acre park did not include Washington's Headquarters--then owned and maintained by the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge--it was the beginning of an ongoing effort to preserve and interpret the forts, entrenchments, officers' quarters, remains of the huts, and associated sites. Through the commission, the park operated as an independent Commonwealth agency until 1923, when taken over by the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was authorized to administer the park from 1971 until 1976. In 1976--in time for our Nation's bicentennial celebration--Valley Forge became a National Historical Park under the stewardship of the National Park Service.

Since its inception in 1893, Valley Forge Park has undergone numerous changes in the effort to preserve, restore, and interpret the scene of the Revolutionary War Encampment. In the intervening years from 1778 until 1893, the Village of Valley Forge had grown up around Washington's Headquarters, changing the surrounding landscape. From Isaac Pott's small mill--visible from Washington's Headquarters in 1777-78--a larger milling operation had sprung forth, including two mill complexes, workers' housing, warehouses and other ancillary buildings, as well as buildings associated with the larger town. Thus a whole new built environment had evolved, incorporating some features of Washington's era but destroying others. In its attempts to restore the encampment period landscape, beginning in 1893, the Valley Forge Park Commission removed the subsequent layers of history we now seek to comprehend.

While the inherent development of the built environment--coupled with factors such as the growth of the vegetation, reforestation, and erosion--is largely responsible for the changes at Valley Forge, others are a direct result of the park's presence. The infrastructure of the park, while necessary to its functioning, is an intrusion. Elements such as roadways and paths, parking lots, and a railroad station, were added to foster accessibility. Thus a further overlay on the landscape of Washington's Valley Forge is the interpretive modifications that reflect an ever changing perception of history and how that history should be presented.

Representatives of such changes range from the manicured lawn and restored creek bed, to the memorials, historical markers and interpretive waysides. Visitors better comprehend the genius of Washington's military planning, or connect important sites and memorials through the view sheds cut into areas of the park. All park-imposed interpretive layers were created to allow for the visitor's comprehension of the encampment of 1777-78.

Methodology

In an effort to better understand and interpret the evolving landscape of Valley Forge, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), in cooperation with Valley Forge National Historical Park, undertook a cultural landscape study centered on the Washington's Headquarters Area. Whereas past preservation efforts traditionally focused on the buildings alone--overlooking the surrounding landscape--cultural landscape studies examine the larger context of the natural and built environment. In so doing, HABS re-photographed a select group of historic views and produced overlay maps of the Washington's Headquarters area during the encampment in 1777-78, at the close of the mill village period ca. 1893, and at the time it became a national park in 1976. The comparison of past with present views illuminates the larger continuum of history at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and so explains the current conditions of the site. Tracing the evolution of the cultural landscape brings a broader perspective to the study and interpretation of the Washington's Headquarters area.

The historic photographic images that were reproduced by HABS date from ca. 1861 through ca. 1930, and include large-format photographs, stereoscopic and postcard views. The historic views were taken largely from the Valley Forge Park archives, which encompasses a wide variety of images gathered from local historical societies and private collections. (Some of the images were produced originally by area photographers for commercial purposes.) Many of the views selected are of the Washington's Headquarters area during the (mill) "Village of Valley Forge" period, prior to the beginning of park restoration efforts. Other views are of the farmsteads used as quarters by Washington's commanding officers, the encampment era redoubts and other reconstructed elements, and the monuments. Much of the early infrastructure of the park also was documented such as roadways, curbing, historical markers, and scenic view sheds. The maps produced by this survey are drawn through the use of computer-aided drafting with dimensions derived from historic maps and sketches, and information attained from historic photographs and the archeological report prepared by park archeologist David Orr. The information gathered from photographic reproductions of historic images was digitized and/or electronically scanned, then traced within the computer-aided drafting environment.

VALLEY FORGE ENCAMPMENT, 1777-78

Introduction

During the summer of 1777 as the British were maneuvering to capture Philadelphia-- the seat of American colonial government-- General George Washington and the Continental Army sought to defend the city. Attempts to thwart British aggression at Brandywine failed, however, and as cold weather was setting in, the British took possession of the city. It then was decided that the Continental Army would establish a winter encampment where they could train and await more favorable conditions for battle. Valley Forge was selected due to the defensibility of the site and its proximity to Philadelphia. From Valley Forge the Continental Army planned to monitor British activity, and hoped to keep their supply lines open.

The encampment established by the American Continental Army during the winter of 1777-78 was laid out by Brigadier General Louis L. Duportail, a French engineer. Members of Washington's staff familiar with the territory suggested Valley Forge as a site ideally suited to their purposes. The high ground at Mount Joy and Mount Misery to the west provided excellent visibility. Bounded by the Schuylkill River to the north, Duportail's plan called for a picket to be set near the only bridge. Two lines of defenses were built to fend off British attack. The outer line of defenses formed the border of the encampment to the southeast, the direction in which Philadelphia is located, and presumably from which the British might attack. The outer line terminated with Redoubt #2, to the northeast. It was behind this line that many of the brigades of soldiers actually were encamped. To the west was a similar line of entrenchments, the fall-back position or inner line of defenses. These entrenchments formed a semi-circle running from the Schuylkill River at the northwest, southeast along the base of Mount Joy. The inner line was

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fortified by Star Redoubt, Stirling Redoubt, and Fort Washington. These fortifications provided a vantage point for musket and cannon fire, as well as views of advancing enemy movement should it occur. Added protection was afforded by artillery redans and other fortifications located at strategic points within the encampment.

The Continental Army at Valley Forge consisted of over 12,000 men including from fifteen to seventeen infantry brigades, and three regiments of cavalry. They were housed in a minimum of 1,000 log huts--most placed directly behind the outer and inner line entrenchments--arranged according to brigade and company. A log hospital, where army physicians and surgeons could oversee the many sick, was located at each brigade site. Several commanding officers occupied the existing dwellings, belonging to the farmsteads scattered beyond the lines of defense. In the center of the plan was a parade ground, used for the purpose of military drilling under the direction of Major General Friedrich Von Steuben.

Washington was ensconced within the Isaac Potts house, strategically located to the far northwest corner of the encampment, at the confluence of the Schuylkill River and Valley Creek. A life guard unit was posted nearby for the added protection of the commander-in-chief. Beyond Washington's Headquarters, across Valley Creek to the west were the artificers. The iron forge, from which the area took its named, had been burned by the British in the months prior to the encampment; the site was just upriver from Washington's Headquarters (archeological remnants are extant, but are not accessible to the public). To the front of Washington's headquarters stood a grist mill, owned and operated by Isaac Potts. Valley Forge was an eighteenth-century industrial complex surrounded by agricultural farmlands.

HABS Documentation

The purpose of the HABS overlay maps is to enable the comparison of current and historic conditions within Washington's Headquarters area of Valley Forge Park. This can be accomplished by overlaying the 1976 map (HABS NO. PA-6186, sheet 5 of 5) with either of the two period maps included in the study-- the Village of Valley Forge, ca 1893 (HABS NO. PA-6186, sheet 4 of 5); and the Valley Forge Encampment, 1777-78 (HABS NO. PA-6186, sheet 3 of 5). Among the significant changes are those to the built environment; the maps locate buildings extant during the various periods as indicated. Also depicted are landscape features such as creeks and mill races, fencing and hedgerows, orchards and other major plantings, and topographical features. The infrastructure of the park, such as roadways and trails, adds a further overlay onto the cultural landscape as depicted on the 1976 map included in this study.

Graphics from the encampment period through the third quarter of the nineteenth century are rare; the primary source material is limited to the Duportail plan for the layout of the encampment, written accounts, and the report by the park archeologist David Orr. The earliest views of Washington's Headquarters are photographs taken ca. 1859, ca. 1861, and ca. 1862

(HABS NO. PA-6186-21, 3, and 8 respectively). The 1861 historic view of the Isaac Potts House, used by General George Washington in 1777-78, is of the east front from a slight perspective. The view shows the later additions and changes to the south side elevation, including a second story to the kitchen wing, enclosing the original open breezeway, a single story shed addition, and a rear two story frame addition. The stable building, there during the encampment period, is visible to the north. Also apparent is the fencing that once surrounded the house and fields to the rear. The ca. 1862 view is of the front and north side. Somewhat visible as well is the frame shed addition to the south side and a what looks to be a privy to the far south (left). Since this view, the oval window in the gable end has been restored and the trellises against the house and the fencing around it have been removed.

The ca. 1859 view is of the larger village, with Washington's headquarters at the top of the photograph, the second building from the left. The structure to the left of the house is the mill at a mid-point in its evolution, incorporating the early grist mill present during Washington's stay. The large white structure to the right is a dormitory for mill workers and the remainder of the buildings on that side of the creek are outbuildings including a stable and barn. Not visible, due to foliage, is the only other substantial building present during the encampment period in the immediate area of Washington's Headquarters, the Bake House (later an Inn), still located at the intersection of routes 23 & 252. The mill pond on Valley Creek was enlarged over time to provide for the expanding mill operations (also later restored to the encampment period). In the foreground of the picture is the roof of a mill worker's cottage, the only one extant. While none of these earlier views depict the house and surroundings exactly as Washington would have seen it, they do provide an early view, as well as an idea of the evolution that was taking place.

Officer's Quarters

Scattered throughout the larger encampment landscape are found the farmsteads used as quarters by General Washington's officers. Historic views (largely turn-of-the-century) were also taken of those extant within the park. The first in the HABS series is an historic view of the house used as **General James Michael Varnum's Quarters** in 1777-78 (HABS NO. PA-6186-37 & 38). General Varnum commanded a brigade of Rhode Island and Connecticut troops. This perspective view shows the north front and east side and includes a number of outbuildings. Shown is a house much altered from its original state; the roof was raised from its original two-and-a-half to a full three stories, and a later two-bay-wide, three story addition was made to the east (creating a five-bay wide facade). Both of these additions were removed during the restoration. None of the outbuildings shown in this view are extant. The barn in the background (far right) is gone, as is the spring house (or root cellar) in the foreground, although the retaining wall was rebuilt. A spring house is still located on site, but does not appear in this view (it is located in the foreground). A view of the curve in "Port Kennedy Road" (Rt. 23) as seen from the Star Redoubt shows the rural nature of the park and features the top of Varnum's Quarters to the center (HABS NO. PA-6186-39 & 40).

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This view of **Knox's Quarters** (HABS NO. PA-6186-45 & 46) was taken from across the creek, and shows the southeast front and southwest side of the house. An old road bed is vaguely visible near the ripple in the creek, indicating the location of an old ford or crossing. This view shows a more riparian or level creek bed, whereas there is a steeper bank today. The retaining wall in the foreground of the house is still there. Another view shows the northeast side, looking west (HABS NO. PA-6186-47 & 48). The house has been turned 90 degrees so that it now faces onto green space, rather than the old farm road visible in this historic view. The old roadway was supplanted by the current road that appears in the foreground of the modern view. The new roadway also necessitated the removal of the rustic bridge that appears in the historic view. Also shown are a number of outbuildings connected with the neighboring farm, now gone.

Lord Stirling's Quarters is pictured in the ca. 1875 view showing the southeast front and northeast side of the house, as seen from the road (HABS NO. PA-6186-49 & 50). Among other things, the view documents changes in the roof line. It is believed that the southwest section encompasses the original one-and-a-half story dwelling built for Rev. Currie in 1769 (date stone). The roof was raised twice, first to a full two stories, and again to accommodate an attic, before being restored to its current staggered height. The house was also enlarged by the main block to the northeast. In view #49 the two roofs are at the same level. A second historic view again shows the house with a continuous roof line (HABS NO. PA-6186-51 & 52), as well as with a small window awkwardly positioned in the space between the first and second roof railings. Also shown here is the one-story spring house to the far left (a second story, and then a wing connecting it to the main block were later added). In the 1950s the roof of the original section was restored (lowered). Other changes include the removal of the fencing appearing in the historic view, and the placement of an historical marker. A retention pond was added to the front yard, for it appears in the lower right corner of the current view.

This historic postcard is a perspective view looking southwest of **Maj. Gen. Marquis de LaFayette's Quarters**. The growth currently surrounding this house almost completely obscures it, making an adequate re-creation of this view impossible. The house is currently in poor, altered condition, bearing little resemblance to the historic view. It is removed somewhat from the center of park activities, and is not open to the public for viewing or interpretation.

This view shows **Morgan's Quarters**, currently used as the park Ranger's Station (HABS NO. PA-6186-55 & 56). Numerous changes have occurred to the house including those apparent in the fenestration and reconfiguration of the front doorway. The spring house which appears in the lower left corner is now gone, as is the barn. The banked root cellar remains, although it has been greatly altered. The house is located along Richards Road, the southeast boundary of the Park, although the encampments and supply lines extended past this area. The troops, and supply lines, reached to the north and west (away from Philadelphia and the British).

This house-- with a date stone of 1816-- is located on the site of **General Huntington's Quarters**, probably a simple log dwelling in 1777-78 (HABS NO. PA-6186-57 & 58). General Jedediah Huntington commanded a brigade of Connecticut troops, encamped near Fort Huntington. Tradition suggests that the hillside on which the house is located was supposedly covered with grave sites. As testimony to this account is the Waterman Monument to the west, named for the only identified soldier who was originally buried in the hill. The historic view shows a first story bay window which was later removed (the building now sags in this location). The site still includes a spring house and remnants of an orchard and old farm road.

VILLAGE OF VALLEY FORGE, CA. 1893

Introduction

The encampment of George Washington and the Continental Army during the winter and spring of 1777-78 wholly depleted the thriving agricultural community of Valley Forge. The timber had been cut to erect huts and fortifications, and to provide firewood. Entrenchments and other earthworks had cut through the fields, leaving previously fertile ground trampled, and sprinkling the remains of huts across the landscape. Fencing around the individual farmsteads had been removed. Farm stores and other resources had been consumed. A poor economy in the years following further delayed the return to agricultural prosperity enjoyed before the encampment period. Returning to the scene of the encampment in 1787, however, Washington reported that the surrounding farmsteads had been revitalized.

By the early nineteenth century, developments in the field of industry resulted in substantial growth within the Valley Forge community. In 1814, the mill that sat to the front of Washington's Headquarters had been sold; the new owners enlarged it for use as a rolling mill, producing boiler plate and brand iron. A three story stone building for the manufacture of hardware also was erected during this period. This building later was converted to a saw factory. Sometime after 1818, as the local industry expanded, additional furnaces were erected around a large stack, clearly visible on the horizon. In 1821, the saw factory was refitted for the manufacture of guns. The mill building was damaged badly when Valley Creek flooded its banks. By 1832 it had been converted to a cotton and woolen manufactory of 2,000 spindles. At that time it was recorded that the mill village of Valley Forge included approximately thirty houses-- many of them the single or double stone cottages of the mill workers-- with ten more dwellings along the outskirts, a tavern, and two stores.

HABS Documentation

By the mid to late nineteenth century a new revolution--the industrial revolution--turned the Washington's Headquarters area of the encampment period into a thriving mill village. Maps and other illustrations exist for this period, giving a fairly representative depiction of the mill village

period (HABS NO. PA-6186-1 & 2, and a bird's-eye view of the village recreated on drawings sheet 1 of 5). Views of the mill buildings (prototypical New England type, with central tower and clerestory) and of the worker's duplex housing, are represented by HABS NO. PA-6186-23 & 25. These buildings are no longer extant. General overviews of the mill village are depicted by HABS NO. PA-6186-17, 19 & 20. View #17, taken from the ridge above, shows the mill tower and the former stone arch bridge; today the view is obscured by vegetation (views #19 & #20 could not be reproduced for this reason).

A view closer to Washington's Headquarters than previously shown is depicted by HABS NO. PA-6186-12, which includes buildings connected with the mill complex. A barn and spring house (gable peak in foreground) to the rear of Washington's headquarters is shown in HABS NO. PA-6186-15. These outbuildings have since been replaced by reconstructed log hutments (PA-6186-16). Turn of the century views of Washington's headquarters reflect the first round of restoration. Comparing the earlier view PA-6186-3 with PA-6186-6 shows the removal of the shed addition to the north side, and with PA-6186-4 shows the restoration of the kitchen wing to a single story structure.

The village's growth was facilitated by the proximity of transportation routes, which followed the Schuylkill River and Canal, the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad, and, eventually, trolley lines. An historic view of the village (HABS NO. PA-6186-32) shows the river and the railroad vista. Early railroad depots are shown in HABS NO. PA-6186-99 & 100. The trolley ran through the center of the Village of Valley Forge, on the old Gulph Road, as seen in HABS NO. PA-6186-27. The old stone bridge depicted in HABS NO. PA-6186-26 & 29 has been removed, and the meandering dirt road has been straightened.

Valley Forge Park Commission

When the initial section of Valley Forge Park was designated in 1893, the Valley Forge Park Commission was formed to perpetuate and preserve the site of the encampment, maintaining it as nearly as possible to 1777-78 conditions. Much of the early work of the commission, however, was taken up by issues of determining proper boundaries and land acquisition. Over the next eight decades the park grew from its original 250 acres to 3,500 acres. In fact, Washington's Headquarters was not part of the original 1893 park; it was not until 1905 that the park acquired this important landmark, previously maintained by the Centennial and Memorial Commission of Valley Forge. (It was some time after this that attention was turned to addressing the historical significance of the site.) As part of its mission to sustain the accuracy of Washington's Headquarters the park commission deemed it appropriate to remove any structures that post-dated the encampment period-virtually the entire village of Valley Forge. Although a master plan for the removal of buildings from the village of Valley Forge has not been found, the majority of structures dating from the mill period in the immediate area of Washington's Headquarters were removed during the early part of the century. Survivors of the Park

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Commission's purge are the cottages of the mill workers in the area across Gulph Road (Rt. 23) and Valley Creek, and a number of the Victorian era houses along Gulph Road which date from the "Village of Valley Forge". Also on Gulph Road is the restored David Potts House, one of the few structures dating from the early federal, post-Revolutionary War period. A new and enlarged railroad station was erected directly northeast of Washington's Headquarters (HABS NO. PA-6186-97 & 98). The station, built by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in 1913, was designed in the Colonial Revival style, probably to blend with the architecture of Washington's Headquarters. The park's interest was in facilitating visitorship; special excursions to Valley Forge were provided by the railroad.

The smaller village of Port Kennedy was located southeast of Washington's Headquarters site, just a few miles down the railroad tracks. Port Kennedy, once one of the nation's leading producers of lime (extracted from nearby quarries), experienced its hey-day during the mid to late nineteenth century. The Schuylkill Canal was built along the river which fronted on the town site in 1825. A decade later, in 1835, the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad purchased a right-of-way and erected a station in Port Kennedy. New modes of transportation made production and export of Port Kennedy's lime easier. Barges took the lime, which was produced from kilns operating around the clock, from wharfs to market. The town once included a bank of limestone kilns, a substantial stuccoed-stone hotel, stores, and a number of large stone houses in addition to the many other buildings, commercial and residential. However, like the village of Valley Forge, Port Kennedy did not fair well in the park's revisions of the landscape. All that remains today is the Kennedy Mansion, the deteriorating railroad station (HABS NO. PA-6186-67 & 68), and the former Port Kennedy Commissary (later used as a residence) along Rt. 23.¹ Other industrial sites within the former encampment area was the large magnesium manufacturing plant, Keene Industrial Complex. The plant developed on what had been the parade grounds (visible in background of HABS NO. PA-6186-59, 61 & 63).

Monuments and Infrastructure

Efforts began early to provide accessibility to the various sites through the creation of roads and trails. No sooner had the State park been established than a "broad avenue or drive way," the first of many roads, was planned and constructed in 1901-03.² The drive extended along the whole

¹Despite the fact that the commissary is a mid-nineteenth century building, it managed to survive when so many other buildings from that era were removed. Perhaps the park found it useful, and it was not located in an area of critical importance to the interpretation of the encampment era. They may have suspected it to be older than it actually is.

²Harlan D. Unrau, Administrative History of Valley Forge National Historical Park. Pennsylvania. Denver Service Center, NPS, Dept. Interior, 1984, pgs. 98, 104.

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"outer line" of the encampment's defenses.³ Outer Line Drive actually followed the path of an earlier road, present during the encampment period. This was true of a number of roads, such as Rt. 23, which passes the village of Valley Forge heading to the site of Port Kennedy, formerly known as Port Kennedy Road. Other pre-park roads, such as the Old Baptist Trace Road or Devon Road, leading from Port Kennedy through the Chester Valley to Devon, Pennsylvania, were abandoned by the park because they did not take visitors past encampment features or monuments. The Devon roadbed can still be seen (HABS NO. PA-6186-80 & 81, 84 & 85).

Inner Line Drive was constructed on the heels of Outer Line Drive, together creating a six-mile roadway. A section of Inner Line Drive climbed Mount Joy to a height of 425'. In 1903, the park put an observation tower on Mount Joy to enhance what visitors saw, thereby improving on the view provided to Washington and his forces (HABS NO. PA-6186-92). An historic view of the reverse bend in Inner Line Drive, en route to the tower (now gone) is shown in HABS NO. PA-6186-90 & 91. The gently winding roadway included a scenic overlook (in the background of the historic view), affording a view of the overall encampment. The main impetus for the development of both Outer and Inner Line drives was to provide a natural path for viewing the remnants of the encampment, as well as the monuments and waysides erected in their honor. Thus, their establishment also enabled access to a string of state sponsored monuments that mark the site of their own camps (HABS NO. PA-6186-69 & 70).

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution was the first to erect monuments in the park; in 1901, a monument was dedicated to the soldiers of Washington's army, and, in 1905, a replica of a log hutment. The 1901 monument is also known as "the Waterman Monument" for the lieutenant reportedly buried here in April of 1778, making it the only marked grave on this site. Originally sited on a rural landscape overlooking the encampment period parade ground, the monument later was embellished with a brick wall and stairway (HABS NO. PA-6186-59 through 64). All of the monuments were erected through contributions made by states or private organizations, and not by the park.⁴ The first state monument, the Maine Monument was erected

³The outer line of defenses extended from near the Valley Creek, a few hundred yards south of the Washington redoubt, in a southerly direction to the Schuylkill river near Port Kennedy.

⁴Perhaps the most curious of the outside-sponsored monuments to General Washington is the Washington Memorial Chapel and the Cloister of the Colonies, completed in 1915. Although not park owned or managed, that fact may be lost to the visitor who finds it in the park's epicenter. As a chapel, the building elevates George Washington to God-like status; he is deified further through depictions in stained-glass (as are other turning points in the American fight for independence). The implication of all this is that by paving the way at Valley Forge, George Washington was the nation's savior, and that the American Revolution

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in 1907 (HABS NO. PA-6186-71 & 72). Most of the monuments serve as small, unobtrusive reminders of the persons and events of the encampment, oddly reminiscent of tomb stones. The principle exception is the elaborate New Jersey Monument near the intersection of Gulph Road and Outer Line Drive (HABS NO. PA-6186-88 & 89).

The National Memorial Arch, designed by prominent Philadelphia architect Paul Philippe Cret, was erected in 1912-16 to commemorate the suffering endured by General George Washington and the Continental Army in the performance of their patriotic duty during the winter encampment of 1777-78. The arch is the largest monument in the park, and unlike the other monuments, its construction was made possible through a congressional appropriation and its design was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. Cret's design was based on the Roman Arch of Titus, though its Beaux Arts interpretation gives it a more contemporary appearance. Ground was broken for the construction of the arch in May of 1912; the construction crew is shown in front of the Arch in HABS NO. PA-6186-73. Ceremonies dedicating the arch and formally transferring it to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were held on June 19, 1917 (HABS NO. PA-6186-74). The arch is situated on a prominent rise located to the rear of the outer line of defenses along Gulph Road. The surrounding ground was initially left austere, thus maximizing its impact upon the landscape and maintaining the somber mood befitting the event which it commemorates. Landscaping and a concourse of granite pavers was laid around the base of the arch, which also caused a reconfiguration of the roadway (HABS NO. PA-6186-76 & 77).

Improvement to the Grounds

Tangential to the preservation and restoration of the various features were the "improvements to the grounds," which began in 1907-08 with planting trees and clearing brush. This work also resulted in the discovery of additional sites, such as the remnants of hutments, bake ovens and graves. Further property acquisitions in 1915-16 added 275 acres--including General Knox's Quarters, for a total of 766 acres. Also undertaken at this time was selective tree cutting for the purpose of creating vistas in the park. Such vistas served to display features of the encampment, or--perhaps more significantly--monuments to the encampment. One such view was along Inner Line Drive, looking towards Memorial Arch. However, the trees planted along the roadway to create an allee leading to the arch now obstruct the view (HABS NO. PA-6186-78 & 79). The arch once was visible from Fort Washington, Redoubt #3 as well (HABS NO. PA-6186-93).

By 1919, the park increased to 1,428 acres, thus incorporating General Varnum's Quarters. The acquisition also resulted in the development of further roadways through the enlarged park. Other improvements to the grounds included the restoration of the Gorge through which Valley Creek flowed, near Washington's Headquarters in 1919-21 (HABS NO. PA-6186-13). Moreover, an

was a holy war.

extensive landscape plan was developed for the park in 1926 by architect Richard S. Burns; it contained, among other things, the scheme for the plantings surrounding the Memorial Arch.

A number of encampment features were reconstructed during this period. The restorations of fortifications such as the Washington and Star Redoubts began in 1905-06 (HABS NO. PA-6186-93 & 94, and 41 & 42 respectively). The first wave of park efforts to restore Washington's Headquarters was undertaken in 1915-16, and again in 1925-26 and in 1933-34. Also in the interest of enhancing the encampment landscape, hutments were reconstructed (many no longer extant), and "commemorative landscapes" were created such as the row of cannons aligned along Inner Line Drive. The cannons gave way to a parking lot, laid to provide for the expected overflow of visitors during the bicentennial (HABS NO. PA-6186-86 & 87). Other features unrelated to the encampment period remain because they are of interest to tourists and provide opportunity for interpretation. The temptation exists to incorporate these sites into the larger legend, as was the case with the "Old Camp School," erected after the encampment period, and later used as a tea house, and by the park to exhibit artifacts (HABS NO. PA-6186-82 & 83).

Numerous acquisitions 1939-43 resulted in another 416.88 acres, for a total of 1,990.338 acres. These added historic areas to the park and created a buffer against encroaching suburban development. By January 1947, the Park grew to 2,033 acres. Despite being given National Historic Landmark status in 1961, the Park continued to expand. As of July 1966, acreage of the park was 2,255.289 acres. The new reception or visitors center was dedicated in May 1968. Park interpretive programs were improved following new administration by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in 1971. Further land acquisition was undertaken by the NPS between 1976 and 1982 to reinforce the buffer between the park and rapidly encroaching suburban development. The park reached its current area of 2,639.75 acres, encompassing the bulk, although not all, of the historic encampment in 1982.

VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, 1976

Introduction

As the 200th anniversary of the Encampment at Valley Forge of General George Washington and the Continental Army approached, the park faced a turning point in its own history. Besieged with pressure from development and suffering from state funds inadequate for its upkeep and maintenance, the park was in dire need of assistance. Its unquestionable status as a National Historic Landmark of the American Revolution won the support of congressional lawmakers who submitted a proposal for the inclusion of Valley Forge Park within the National Park system. In fact, the call for federal involvement in the acquisition of land and preservation of features of the encampment came as early as 1896 and was to be repeated at

various points throughout the history of the park. Finally, at a ceremony held at Washington's Headquarters on July 4, 1976 President Gerald Ford signed into law an act establishing Valley Forge as a National Historical Park under the stewardship of the National Park Service. An interim period began, with the formal establishment of the park occurring on March 30, 1977. The park was renovated for the Nation's Bicentennial celebration in order to accommodate the expected increase in visitorship and provide for its own bicentennial program.

Following acquisition by the National Park Service, a study was undertaken of Valley Forge by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Park Service-- the most extensive study of its type to that time. The study included research projects on the history, archeology and historic architecture of the park. The information gained from this research became the basis for new preservation, restoration and interpretation plans for park resources. Funds were provided for increased maintenance and infrastructure, and for further land acquisitions that would add areas from the encampment period to the park. The most significant of these acquisitions was that of the Keene Industrial Complex located north of county line road. In 1978 that complex was demolished, eliminating a major intrusion upon the landscape of the park. Other land acquisitions provided a buffer from encroaching suburbanization, such as that of the "Fatlands" property to the northern border. Higher density suburban development necessitated the planting of trees along the southern border of the park to limit the impact to the integrity of the "outer line of defenses" area of the encampment.

HABS Documentation

Prior to its transfer to the National Park Service, the State undertook a survey of the park property as part of a master plan. The survey included the production of detailed maps of "Valley Forge State Park," produced by the Department of Forests and Waters, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1976. These maps were the basis for the drawing produced through the use of computer aided drafting, as part of the current HABS cultural landscape study. The information gathered from these maps was digitized and/or electronically scanned, then traced within the computer-aided drafting environment.

This most recent map reflects the numerous changes to Washington's Headquarters and the surrounding landscape following its inclusion in the park in 1905. Significantly, in 1908, the old mill site was acquired and subsequently removed; in its place, a lawn was planted. The first park restoration of the interior of Washington's Headquarters was undertaken in 1915-16. At the same time, a thicket was cleared and the lawn extended to the western bluff, and thirteen white oaks-- representing the thirteen colonies-- were planted around the headquarters. In 1919-21 the Valley Creek Gorge near Washington's Headquarters, which

had been dammed during the mill era, was restored to ca. 1777-78. Looking again at Washington's Headquarters in 1925-26, the park made changes to the breezeway between the house and kitchen wing. At the same time, the stone building purportedly used as a stable for Washington's horses, and later as a hospital, was converted into the park museum. An extensive landscape plan was developed for the Washington's Headquarters area in 1926, including the restoration of fences and gardens; the addition of walks, drives, parking and lighting; and the remodeling of surrounding support buildings in the Colonial style. In 1934, the Park reconstructed the kitchen wing. The latest restoration of Washington's Headquarters was accomplished in 1975-76, including lowering the kitchen to its original one-and-a-half stories, reconstructing the dog-trot, and repainting the stone walls. Beyond the removal of later "non-contributing" buildings and other features, very little has been done to restore the landscape surrounding Washington's Headquarters, or many of the other quarters which were operating farmsteads at the time of the Revolutionary War.

CONCLUSION

Valley Forge National Historical Park is significant for its collection of historic structures and sites relating to the Revolutionary War encampment of General Washington and the Continental Army. Overlaid with these, however, are remnants of various periods in history subsequent to 1777-78, as well as the infrastructure erected by the state and national park in the interest of public accessibility and historical interpretation. Among the interpreted, encampment period sites are Washington's Headquarters and the other farmsteads used as quarters for his commanding officers; and recreations of forts, redoubts and hutments. Remnants of the various layers of historic fabric removed in the interest of recreating the encampment period include the towns of Valley Forge and Port Kennedy. Also present but not interpreted are the archeological remains of the iron forge; experimental farms (including "Fatlands"); early river, canal, and railway commerce; and historic landscape features such as old roads, former agricultural fields, orchards and gardens; fence patterns and hedgerows. Beginning in 1901, roadways and trails, monuments and other structures, waysides and historical markers have been heaped upon the landscape, creating the final overlay.

Valley Forge National Historical Park was established to preserve the tangible remains of an important event in American history-- or, perhaps more accurately, to commemorate that event. After all, what is an historical park without monuments and waysides, not to mention walking trails and comfort stations? Infrastructure is necessary to maintain and interpret any park site, but obtrusive infrastructure and over zealous restoration and maintenance efforts may negatively impact the very resource the park was established to safeguard. Have we gone to far in the removal of "non-historic" resources? The manicured lawn, split-rail fencing and paved walkways found at Washington's Headquarters today are a definite improvement

over the muddy, well-trodden fields of the encampment era, yet how accurate a depiction is it? Recognizing that the overlay created by the park to enhance the visitors experience is in itself an intrusion upon the historical landscape, some accretions created by later periods may likewise augment the visitor's experience. Focusing on the evolution of the cultural landscape presents an opportunity to re-examine the lost layers of history with a mind to broadening interpretation. In so doing, we help to place visitors within the continuum of our Nation's history, making the connection between their own lives and significant events of the past.

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Note: The report was primarily the result of the examination of historic photographic views and maps, and archeological inventory/data base of the area surrounding George Washington's Headquarters, and on-site investigation and field survey, accompanying the photographer.

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The historic views used and recreated for the purposes of this study are located within the archives of Valley Forge National Historical Park. For individual citations, see the Index to Photographs section of the HABS report (NO. PA-6186).

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PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was sponsored by Valley Forge National Historical Park, Warren Beach, Superintendent, under the direction of Karen Rehm, Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resource Management, and Timothy Long, Historical Architect. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapech, Chief of HABS/HAER, under the direction of Paul Dolinsky, Chief of HABS, by Robert Arzola, HABS Architect, and Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS Historian. The computer aided drawings were executed by Robert Arzola, and Jonathan Hodge (Catholic University). Written historical documentation on drawings and reports was prepared by Catherine C. Lavoie. Large-format photographs and the photo-copying of historical views was undertaken by Jack E. Boucher, HABS Photographer.